REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 11, 21-24, 29, 31-33 and 39-55 were pending in the instant application when last examined. Claims 2-6, 11, 21-24, 29, 31-33 and 39-42 are allowed. Claims 43, 48 and 54 are being amended herein to place them in a condition for allowance. No new matter is being added and claims 2-6, 11, 21-22, 24, 29, 31-33 and 39-55 are pending in the instant application. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In items 2-3, the office action rejected claims 43-55 under the 35 U.S.C. 101 as non-statutory. Applicant would traverse, since the embodiments in the specification are described with reference to computing hardware and associated software, but elects instead to amend claims 43, 48 and 54 to recite "a computer <u>performing</u> steps," in order to obviate the rejection and expedite allowance. Claims 44-47, 49-53 and 55 are dependent upon Claims 43, 48 and 54 respectively and therefore incorporate this limitation by virtue of this dependence. No new matter is being added. The claims are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 4, the office action indicates that claims 29, 39 and 40 are allowed. The office action also indicates that claims 2-6, 11, 21-24, 31-33, and 41-42 are allowed, and that claims 43-55 will be allowable when the 35 USC 101 rejection is overcome.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

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For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/17/2005

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